

Lady Carlotta's Tree Adventure

text by
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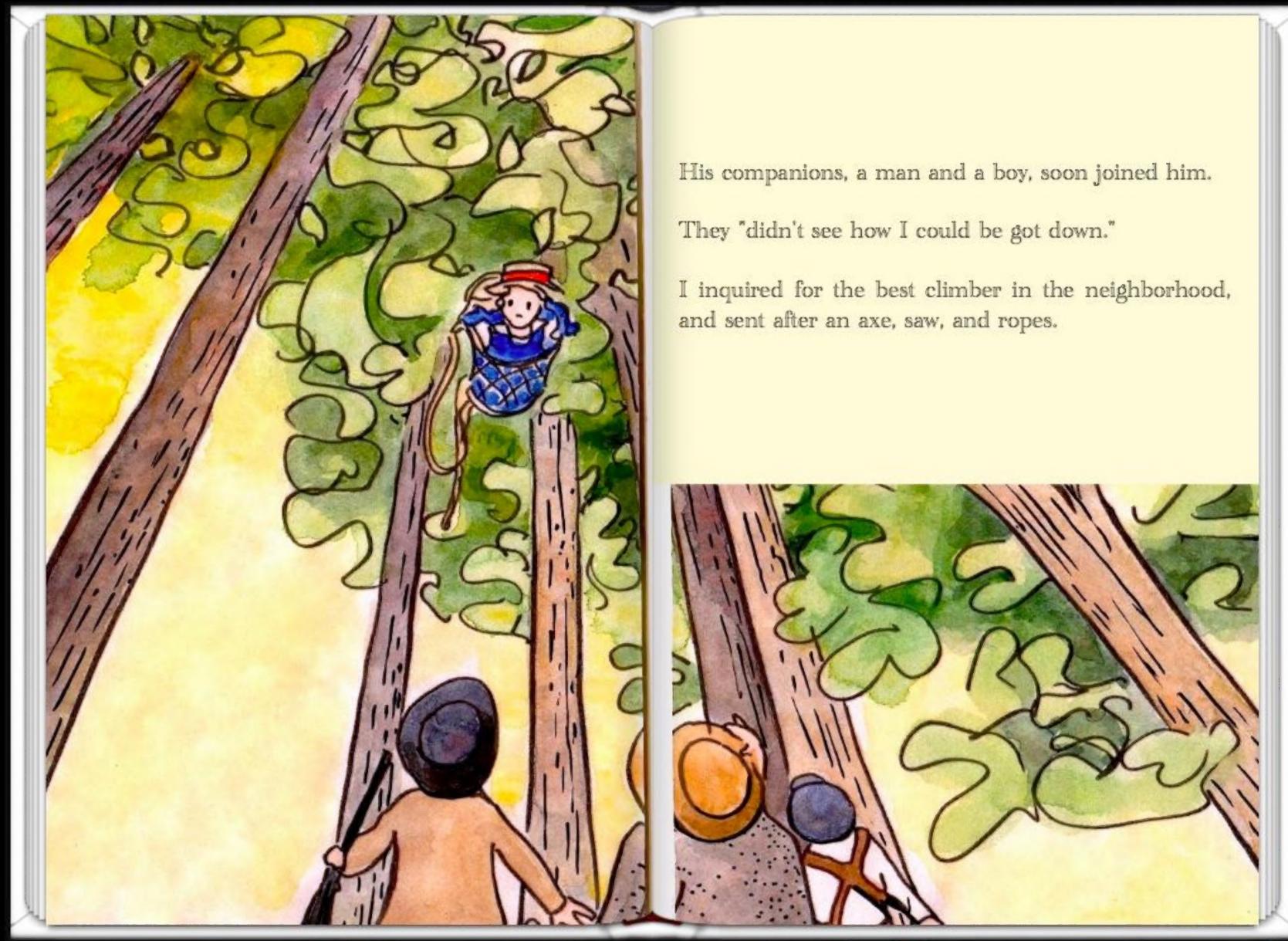
The balloon bounded rapidly across the tree-tops, with "a hop, a skip, and a jump," the basket collecting leaves, twigs and acorns at every plunge, till an immense tree threatened to wreck craft, crew and cargo. I cast anchor immediately.

The grapnel, dragging, just allowed two branches to catch the netting of the balloon.

By and by, a hunter came shouting through the woods.

He laughed at my situation and asked me why I hadn't found a taller tree to land in.





His companions, a man and a boy, soon joined him.

They "didn't see how I could be got down."

I inquired for the best climber in the neighborhood,
and sent after an axe, saw, and ropes.

When the climber came, he said it was impossible to climb the tree.

I said it MUST be done, and sent for a long ladder.

I directed the climber to throw me one end of a rope, which I tied to the basket, thus relieving the strain.

As the men let out the ropes, the whole came down, and I found myself on the ground after hanging up there nearly two hours.





We were all much fatigued, and glad to shake hands together as we felt quite like old friends.

The men said they never knew a woman could engineer a job so well, but I guess they never before caught one "up a tree!"

The text is abridged
from

"The Aerial Adventures of Carlotta,
or Sky Larking in Cloudland,"
by Mary Myers,

1883.

This project was
part of a longer piece
submitted to
The Sketchbook Project 2011
on the theme
"In Flight."
The original is in
The Brooklyn Art Library
in New York City
and can be viewed in its entirety
on their website
www.sketchbookproject.com/brooklynartlibrary

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Cover: (Detail) Panoramic Map of Binghamton, New York, by L.R. Burleigh,
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